

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Legislative Session of Makaram 1101)

Tuesday, the 2nd of February 1926.
20th of Makaram 1101.

The second meeting of the Makaram sitting was held in the Council Chamber, in the Town Hall, Ernakulam, at 11.30 a. m. Tuesday, the 20th of Makaram 1101, corresponding to the 2nd of February 1926.

The President was in the Chair.

Sreemati T. Madhavi Amma, Messrs. K. Krishna Menon and P. Munda Vaidyan were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR.

Before we proceed with the questions and answers, I would request the President for information whether the Government have any objection to give us these questions and answers a day previous, so that we can come prepared with the supplementary questions.

PRESIDENT.

It is not in the Standing Orders, and we are only following the rules.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR.

There is nothing in the Standing Orders preventing this.

PRESIDENT.

Do you know the rule we are following?

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR.

Appendix 2, page 49, S. O. 12, C. L. C. Manual. The Government Members are supplied a copy of the questions and answers a day previous.

Mr. T. K. KRISHNA MENON.

That is not correct. Not all the members,

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR.

Some members at least.

PRESIDENT.

I think these rules were taken from those of Travancore. I do not know whether the Madras rules are the same.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ.

These questions and answers are placed on the table an hour before the proceedings commence.

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar requests to supply copies of questions and answers a day previously.

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

I do not think that in Madras and Travancore questions and answers are supplied to any Government Member a day previous to the proceedings.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

Generally, the questions and answers are placed half hour before the meeting commences. That is the practice in Madras.

PRESIDENT.

Is it half an hour?

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR.

In Madras other members are also allowed to ask supplementary questions. Here it is not so.

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar, do you want that the President should give a ruling on this point? Of course, the President should reconsider the matter, and then give a ruling.

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

It is open to us to bring in an amendment to the Standing Order.

PRESIDENT.

There is no objection, but it is another question.

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

We can add, if the Council passes it, and it shall be passed as a Standing Order.

PRESIDENT.

Now, it is left to the discretion of the President.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

We need not be put to the necessity of bringing an amendment to the Standing Order, if the President

of the feeling of the House and gives a ruling. We are labouring under a difficulty. Although in the present rule we are not to put questions and answers ourselves, yet, if questions and answers are supplied one hour before the meeting commences, the non-officials could put their heads together and put supplementary questions. Under the existing practice, we have no time.

PRESIDENT.

Do you think it insufficient?

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

It is insufficient.

PRESIDENT.

Was it tried in any particular case? The questions and answers were supplied 15 minutes before the time, i. e., at 11-15 a.m. The members have ample time to consult and prepare themselves for putting supplementary questions.

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

28 pages of questions and answers cannot be gone through in 15 minutes.

PRESIDENT.

Although we have 28 pages of questions and answers, we have got only 18 pages of questions. I think there was a debate on this subject in the Municipal Corporation.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

They were circulating the questions and answers two days previous, in the Municipal Corporation. They also insist upon the answers being numbered and dated, and the questions themselves being dated. It is very important. Now, there are questions here that are 6 months old which have not yet been answered. If we put dates, then we can find out the period for which they are left unanswered.

PRESIDENT.

Can you refer to one question which is more than 6 months old?

Mr. O. R. CHUMMAR.

There was one question which was put before the budget session and which remains unanswered.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA.

Some 20 of my questions put before the budget session are still unanswered.

PRESIDENT.

As regards the Municipal Corporation, there is no dissolution. There is also no prorogation like that of our Council

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

Even then they insist upon the answers being numbered and dated, and the questions are also dated.

PRESIDENT.

Was the question raised in Travancore and considered? Are you sure that in Madras the questions and answers are supplied half an hour before the meeting begins? Dr. A. G. Menon says that they are supplied only half an hour previously. Was the question mooted in the Madras Legislative Council?

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

There in Madras everybody can take part in the putting of supplementary questions.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ.

From the Madras Council rules it is found that questions and answers are placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

I have brought an amendment to the Standing Order to that effect. I had sent an amendment to this to incorporate this also. It is not seen here.

PRESIDENT.

The Council Secretary will look into that. If you are going to move the amendment, I do not decide the question now.

Mr. S. S. KODER.

Will the President allow the amendment, if it is brought in?

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

If the President favours the amendment, we need not discuss it now.

PRESIDENT.

There is one point. There may not be any necessity for an amendment. I will consider the question. I do not want to commit myself. In the present state of things, we will follow the rule as it is.

Lottery Kuri.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR.

170. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the 'Lottery Kuri' (i. e., Kuries conducted by some wherein persons getting their names drawn are exonerated from all